

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (amended) ~~A method of adding a component into an industrial control~~  
~~device~~multi-component electronic device, the ~~industrial control device~~multi-component  
electronic device providing a set of resources having types and version numbers, the  
method comprising the steps of:
- (a) determining a required resource list of types and version numbers of resources  
required by the component;
  - (b) ~~linking~~attaching to the component a link to the required resource list to the  
component;
  - (c) executing a loader program to compare the required resource list with the  
predetermined set of resources and
    - (i) when the entire required resource list, including the types and version numbers,  
match the set of resources, adding the component to the ~~industrial control device~~multi-  
component electronic device; and
    - (ii) when less than the entire required resource list, including the types and version  
numbers, match the set of resources, determining the types and version numbers of the  
missing resources and searching for the missing resources according to a predefined  
search strategy.
2. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the component is selected from the  
a group consisting of: hardware components including hardware and files, and resources  
including files only.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 including the step of (c)(iii) when a missing  
resource is not found in the search strategy, providing a notification to the user of the type  
and version of the missing resources not found.
4. (amended) The method of claim ~~1~~3 wherein the resources are selected from  
~~the~~a group consisting of: hardware resources including hardware and files, and software  
resources including files only.
5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the predefined search strategy  
begins the search with a directory of a source of the ~~component~~.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the predefined search strategy includes searching at least one predetermined Internet location.

7. (amended) The method of claim 1 including further the step of :

(c)(iii) when a missing resource found in the search strategy is a resource having a type but not a version identical with a corresponding resource in the set of resources, adding the missing resource to the ~~industrial control device~~ multi-component electronic device without removing the corresponding resource.

8. (amended) The method of claim 6-7 wherein the corresponding resource is in a common directory and the new resource is placed in a directory unique to the resource.

9. (original) The method of claim 1 including further the steps of:

(d) determining upward compatibility between different version numbers of resources of a given type, upward compatibility indicating that a resource of a later version number fully supports the features of a resource with an earlier version number;

(e) linking the information about the compatibility to the resources;

(f) when a missing resource found in the search strategy is a resource having a type identical with a corresponding resource in the set of resources but a later version number, replacing the corresponding resource with the missing resource only when the missing resource is upwardly compatible with the corresponding resource.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 including further the steps of:

(d) determining upward compatibility between different version numbers of resources of a given type, upward compatibility indicating that a resource with a later version number fully supports the features of a resource of an earlier version number;

(e) linking the information about the compatibility to the resources;

(f) when a missing resource found in the search strategy is a resource having a type identical with a corresponding resource in the set of resources but an earlier version number, using the corresponding resource instead of the missing resource only when the corresponding resource is upwardly compatible with the missing resource.

11. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the set of resources is determined by a program searching the ~~industrial control device~~ multi-component electronic device prior to step (c).

12. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the set of resources is listed in an available resource table in the ~~industrial control device~~ multi-component electronic device and wherein step (c) compares the required resource list with the available resource table.

13. (amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 12 wherein the available resource table is generated at least in part by manual entry of the resource.

14. (amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 12 wherein the available resource table is generated by the step of a program searching the ~~industrial control device~~ multi-component electronic device.

15. (amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 12 wherein the available resource table is generated as components are loaded.

16. (amended) The method of claim ~~11~~ 12 wherein the available resource table includes a listing of components using each resource.

17. (amended) The method of claim ~~14~~ 16 including the step of:

(d) adding ~~the~~ a resource to the available resource table in the listing of components using each resource for the resources of the required resource list.

18. (amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 16 further including the steps of:

(e) accepting a component deletion instruction;

(f) deleting the component from the ~~industrial control device~~ multi-component electronic device;

(g) reviewing the available resource table to find all the resources associated with the component; and

(h) deleting all resources identified in the step (f) unless the available resource table indicates a component other than the component being deleted in the listing of components using the resource.

19. (amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 18 including the step of:

(i) deleting the resource from all listing of components associated with resources of the available resource table.

20. The method of claim ~~17-19~~ further including the step of (j) notifying the user of resources identified in the step (f) wherein the available resource table indicates a component other than the component being deleted in the listing of components using the resource.

21. (new) A multi-component electronic system comprising:  
a multi-component device providing a set of resources having types and version numbers, the method comprising the steps of:

a component suitable for the multi-component device and having a link to a required resource list holding types and version numbers of resources required by the component;

a loader program executing to:

(i) compare the required resource list of a component with the set of resources;  
(ii) when the entire required resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of resources, allowing addition of the component to the multi-component electronic device; and

(iii) when less than the entire required resource list, including the types and version numbers, match the set of resources, determining the types and version numbers of the missing resources and searching for the missing resources according to a predefined search strategy.

22. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the component is selected from a group consisting of: hardware components including hardware and files, and resources including files only.

23. (original) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the loader program further provides a notification to the user of the type and version of the missing resources not found.

24. (new) The method of claim 3 wherein the resources are selected from a group consisting of: hardware resources including hardware and files, and software resources including files only.

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25. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the predefined search strategy begins the search with a directory of a source of the component.

26. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the predefined search strategy includes searching at least one predetermined Internet location.

27. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein when a missing resource found in the search strategy is a resource having a type but not a version identical with a corresponding resource in the set of resources, the loader program adds the missing resource to the multi-component electronic device without removing the corresponding resource.

28. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 27 wherein the corresponding resource is in a common directory and the new resource is placed in a directory unique to the resource.

29. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the resources link to information about upward compatibility between different version numbers of resources of a given type, upward compatibility indicating that a resource of a later version number fully supports the features of a resource with an earlier version number;

and wherein when a missing resource found by the loader program in the search strategy is a resource having a type identical with a corresponding resource in the set of resources but a later version number, the loader program replaces the corresponding resource with the missing resource only when the missing resource is upwardly compatible with the corresponding resource.

30. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the resources link to information about upward compatibility between different version numbers of resources of a given type, upward compatibility indicating that a resource with a later version number fully supports the features of a resource of an earlier version number;

and wherein when a missing resource found by the loader program in the search strategy is a resource having a type identical with a corresponding resource in the set of

resources but an earlier version number, the loader program uses the corresponding resource instead of the missing resource only when the corresponding resource is upwardly compatible with the missing resource.

31. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the loader program searches the multi-component electronic device to determine the set of resources.

32. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 21 wherein the set of resources is listed in an available resource table in the multi-component electronic device and wherein the loader program compares the required resource list with the available resource table.

33. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 32 wherein the available resource table is generated at least in part by manual entry of the resource.

34. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 32 wherein the loader program updates the available resource table as components are loaded.

35. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 32 wherein the available resource table includes a listing of components using each resource.

36. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 35 wherein the loader program adds a resource to the available resource table in the listing of components using each resource for the resources of the required resource list.

37. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 35 wherein the loader program further:

- (iv) accepts a component deletion instruction;
- (v) deletes the component from the multi-component electronic device;
- (vi) reviews the available resource table to find all the resources associated with the component; and
- (vii) deletes all resources identified in the step (vi) unless the available resource table indicates a component other than the component being deleted in the listing of components using the resource.

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38. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 37 wherein the loader program further deletes the resource from all listing of components associated with resources of the available resource table.

39. (new) The multi-component electronic system of claim 38 wherein the loader program further notifies the user of resources identified in the step (vi) wherein the available resource table indicates a component other than the component being deleted in the listing of components using the resource.

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